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Electrical Failure Caused Cape Cod Animal Hospital Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Chief John M. Farrington said their investigation into Monday's fire at the Cape Cod Animal Hospital has determined that an electrical failure was the cause. One dog and three cats lost their lives in the fire at 1415 Osterville-Barnstable Road in Marstons Mills.

"Arcing of one of the two electrical feeds to the building compromised the gas piping and allowed gas to flow into the building. The gas was ignited by one of a number of possible sources such the furnace, the hot water heater or the generator," said State Fire Marshal Coan.

He added, "This is one of several recent high profile incidents where natural gas has been involved. The circumstances of each of them are completely different."

Fire Chief Farrington said, "If you do smell gas, it is important to leave the building immediately and call the fire department from outside." He added, "This was a difficult fire to fight and I want to commend the efforts of the Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills firefighters and thank all the surrounding fire departments who provided mutual aid."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire Department, the Barnstable Police Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. State Police Crime Scene Services, the state Department of Public Utilities and an electrical consultant provided assistance.